

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

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The U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) must prepare a joint management plan for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument as required by Public Law 106-351, which designated the National Monument. The legislation requires that a management plan be created by October 2003. The vision for the National Monument Plan has been to create a community-based and supported document while meeting the national and federal policies regarding the management of National Monuments.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal government is required to consider the impacts of proposed federal actions prior to taking actions. The public scoping process is designed to involve the public in identifying issues and determining the scope of issues to be addressed by federal agencies when proposing actions. In the case of the National Monument, the public scoping process was and continues to be the forum to ensure that public interest is addressed in establishing the framework for the future of the National Monument.

The Management Advisory Committee (MAC), as described in Public Law 106-351, was created to develop a collaborative environment with the public and Federal, State, Tribal, and local officials to make the best decisions for management of the public lands. The BLM and the Forest Service have also worked with local governments to identify opportunities to enter into cooperative agreements with them in the development of the plan.

5-A Public Participation

Advertising and Announcements

The scoping process for the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument began on March 14, 2002 with the publication of the a notice of intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register*, which notified the public of BLM and Forest Service intent to develop a management plan for those BLM- and Forest Service-managed lands within and adjacent to the National Monument. The NOI also solicited public comments.

To inform interested parties about upcoming public scoping meetings for the National Monument, the location, date, and time for a series of public scoping meetings was sent in the form of a News Release in April 2002. This News Release was mailed to 450 recipients, representing individuals, special interest groups, organizations, federal, local and state officials.

Newspaper advertisements, a press release, and a 30 second cable television spot by John Walsh of America's Most Wanted were issued to notify the public of the planning project, to announce the five public scoping meetings, to request public comments and to provide mailing list contact information. Content of advertisements and press releases was coordinated with BLM and Forest Service staff. The press release was faxed to 31 newspaper, radio, and television stations. In addition, local groups were called and faxed to increase the size of the audience reached. Meeting notification was published in *The Desert Sun* on 17 April, 22 April, 03 May and 15 May 2002, *The Desert Weekly* on 18 April and 02 May, *The Town Crier* (Idyllwild) on 18 April and 02 May, *The Press Enterprise* on 24 April, *El Informador* in April. KVCR aired notification of the meetings on 24 April and KPCI recorded a radio interview 13 May. The scoping

meeting dates and locations were presented at the Monument Advisory Committee meeting on April 6th, 2002. Prior to the publication of this scoping report, the Monument Advisory Committee met twice (28 January, 2002 and 06 April, 2002).

National Monument Website

A website was created to provide general information about the National Monument. The site provides a proposed timeline for the completion of the management plan and other information about the management plan, a copy of the Legislation creating the National Monument, commonly asked questions about the National Monument, and a listing of the Monument Advisory Committee members and dates for upcoming meetings. The internet site provided another location for posting the notice of intent to begin planning for the National Monument as well as the dates, locations and times for the five public scoping meetings. The website will continue to provide information about the National Monument throughout the planning process. The National Monument website address is: www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings. The following email address was established to receive comments for the National Monument Management Plan during the 90-day comment period: ca_srsj_nm@ca.blm.gov

National Mailing Database

The BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office maintains the mailing list for the National Monument. Additions and deletions are managed within the Field Office while BLM headquarters maintains the entire mailing database.

Public Scoping Meetings – Spring 2002

Public scoping meetings were held throughout the Coachella valley (Indio Senior Center – 02 May, 2003; Palm Springs Desert Museum – 04 May, 2003; Palm Desert City Hall – 15 May, 2003) and in the Mountain communities (Idyllwild Town Hall – 24 April, 2003; Pinyon Elks Lodge – 15 May, 2003). A total of 190 persons attended the public meetings, with the largest meeting attendance being the Pinyon meeting.

All meetings were designed to provide information and to capture public comments. Each meeting began with a 20 minute slide presentation providing: (1) a brief review of the National Monument; (2) the relationship of the National Monument plan to other ongoing planning efforts in the area; (3) preliminary planning issues; and (4) an overview of the planning process and timeline.

Public Workshops – Fall 2002

Additional meetings were held in Fall 2002 to provide the public an opportunity to review the scoping comments that were collected during the scoping phase of the planning process. This Public Scoping Report was also posted on the National Monument webpage. Fall 2003 meetings were designed to inform the public how to read the scoping report and how to distinguish how public scoping comments were being addressed (via the National Monument Plan or via another related planning effort)

Next Phase

A 90-day review period for the public draft begins with the filing of the Draft Management Plan/EIS with the Environmental Protection Agency. Information about how to respond with comments will be provided on the National Monument webpage and is provided at the beginning of this document. During this period, public meetings will be held in locations and times announced in the letter accompanying this document, on the National Monument website and in local media.

After analysis and consideration of public comments on the Draft Management Plan/DEIS, the National Monument Proposed Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement is expected to be released in the fall of 2003. The Approved National Monument Management Plan/Record of Decision (ROD) is expected to be completed by October 24, 2003.

5.B Consultation and Coordination with Tribes, Intergovernmental (State, Local, County, City), Federal Agencies, and Interest Groups

5.B.1. Monument Advisory Committee

The development of this National Monument Management Plan was coordinated with the Federal Advisory Committee that was established to provide recommendations regarding the development of the Management Plan. The purpose of the Monument Advisory Committee is to advise the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretaries) with respect to the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the conservation and protection of the National Monument.

The Monument Advisory Committee (MAC) is a committee of citizens appointed to provide advice to the BLM and Forest Service with respect to preparation and implementation of the management plan for the National Monument as required in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 431nt). The act authorized establishment of the MAC with representative members from State and local jurisdictions, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, a natural science expert, local conservation organization, local developer or building organization, the Winter Park Authority and a representative from the Pinyon Community Council.

The Monument Advisory Committee was appointed in November 2001 and met every other month for a total of eight Saturdays prior to the publication of this Draft Management Plan. In addition, the Monument Advisory Committee established four Working Groups (Cultural, Access and Recreation, Land Acquisition, and Planning) to meet outside of the Saturday Meetings to develop additional recommendations for BLM and Forest Service. These Working Group Meetings were open to the public and provided an additional forum for input regarding National Monument management.

In December 2002, the Advisory Committee presented a Report (See Appendix B) outlining recommendations to the BLM and Forest Service regarding Management Plan development. These recommendations were used to help formulate plan alternatives.

5.B.2. Tribal Coordination and Consultation

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 requires the Bureau of Land Management to coordinate with Indian Tribes on land use planning. Consultation on a government-to-government basis with Indian Tribes is also directed by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), and Executive Order 13007.

Government-to-government consultation was initiated by letter in May of 2002. This letter introduced the need for and intent of the planning process and invited Native American comment and participation in the planning process. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians,

Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians, Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians were contacted. Follow-up discussions occurred with staff members of the Agua Caliente. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians was actively engaged in a similar land use planning process that paralleled BLM and Forest Service own efforts. The Tribal HCP establishes (1) a Mountains and Canyons Conservation area (MCCA) in which (a) certain lands will be dedicated to the Habitat Preserve, and (b) general and species-specific conservation measures will be imposed on Covered Projects and /or implemented by the Tribe, and (2) a Valley Floor Conservation Area (VFCA) from which (a) funding will generally be required for acquisition and management of additional Habitat Preserve lands, and (b) additional conservation program includes avoidance and minimization measures, assurances for establishment of the Habitat Preserve, adaptive management and monitoring, implementation and funding, amendment procedures and conditions for changed and unforeseen circumstances.

In November of 2002, as the planning document evolved and potential land management actions became more clearly defined, a second letter was sent to update tribes and to continue government-to-government consultation. This letter outlined solicited comments related to cultural resources or areas of traditional cultural importance. This second letter was sent to the following Tribes: The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Augustine Band of Mission Indians, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians, Los Coyotes Band of Mission Indians, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Ramona Band of Cahuilla Mission Indians, Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians, Soboba Band of Mission Indians, Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians, and Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians were contacted. The Bureau of Land Management also requested a record search of the sacred lands files of the Native American Heritage Commission.

Given their parallel planning effort and the inter-related nature of some decisions, BLM and Forest Service met regularly with the staff of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to coordinate planning alternatives, proposals and analysis. BLM and Forest Service met several times with the Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians including a field trip to sites within the National Monument. BLM and Forest Service attended several Tribal Association of Sovereign Indian Nations to solicit comments regarding management of the National Monument. The Cultural Resources Working Group of the Monument Advisory Committee (see 5.B.1) met regularly to develop input for the National Monument Management Plan.

5.B.3. Intergovernmental – Federal and State

BLM and Forest Service are in consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under the 1998 State Protocol Agreement between the California State Director of the BLM and the California State Historic Preservation Office. The protocol requires that the BLM invite SHPO participation in land use plans in order to provide opportunity 1) to identify issues that should be addressed in the proposed plan and 2) to comment on any proposed cultural resource allocation. BLM also submits draft and final land use plans to SHPO for review and comment. An early notification and invitation to participate in identification of issues was submitted to the SHPO's office in March 2002.

BLM has informally consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Formal

consultation with USFWS under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be initiated in March 2003 on actions proposed in the Draft Management Plan/EIS as they affect the National Monument Planning area. The purpose of the consultation is to ensure that the combined effect of Federal actions authorized under the land use plan is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species, or result in the adverse modification of critical habitat of such species. The formal consultation process will be completed upon issuance of a Biological Opinion by the USFWS.

Coordination between State agencies and the BLM and Forest Service regarding lands within the boundary of the National Monument has consisted of involvement during interagency working group meetings during plan formation as well as representation on the Monument Advisory Committee. As established through Public Law 106-351, one position on the Advisory Committee includes a representative of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) or the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA State Parks). Throughout the planning process this position was filled by a member of CA State Parks. Each of the eight Monument Advisory Committee meetings held as of February 2003 was also attended by a representative of CDFG. An additional State agency represented on the Advisory Committee is the Coachella Mountains Conservancy.

5.B.4. Intergovernmental - County, City, and Local Coordination and Interest Groups

In September 1994, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, representing the county of Riverside and the nine incorporated cities of the region, took the lead in developing a landscape-level conservation plan, the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Throughout this planning process, the cities and County have been coordinating with BLM and Forest Service to address multi-jurisdictional issues in the National Monument. Although this process is happening outside of the scope of the National Monument plan, the development of a trails plan for the mountains has resulted in intensive coordination among local jurisdictions and Federal agencies regarding trail issues.

The Forest Plan Revision process (in progress) for the San Bernardino National Forest has included a number of public meetings held in the mountain communities of the National Monument. Representation at those evening meetings by National Monument staff has resulted in cross-planning effort dialog with local communities. Coordination between the National Monument planning team and the Forest Service planning team has allowed additional opportunities to hear comments and concerns about issues within the National Monument. Although the Forest Service planning process is addressing issues outside of the scope of the National Monument Management Plan, items brought forward from the public have been used to aid in the development of the Draft National Monument Management Plan.

Coordination between County, city, and local jurisdictions and the BLM and Forest Service regarding lands within the boundary of the National Monument has also consisted of involvement by representation on the Monument Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes County, city, and local representation (County of Riverside, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Palm Desert, and the Community of Pinyon). Each of these members were able to provide input and review through eight Advisory Committee meetings and additional working group meetings.

Multiple interests were represented through the scoping comments and letters received. Workshops held within the community resulted in much dialogue concerning interests within the National Monument. Several interest groups are represented through the Monument Advisory Committee (one member each representing: Conservation interests, local developer/building organization interests, Winter Park authority (Palm Springs Tram) interests, and academic interests). During the development of the Draft Management Plan, the committee met eight times as a full group and numerous times in working groups.

5.B.5. Interagency Working Group

In 2001, an Interagency Working Group was established to assist in proposed project development within the National Monument and in development of the National Monument Management Plan. The group consists of staff representatives from Forest Service, BLM, California State Parks, California Department of Fish and Game, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Caltrans, and Desert Search and Rescue. The Group met numerous times to develop issue area content for the Management Plan and to discuss public scoping issues that were brought forward through the planning process. These meetings were an integral component of sharing community concerns raised through scoping with partner agencies within the National Monument.

5.B.6. Service First

The National Monument will cooperatively managed by the BLM and Forest Service. A Service First is a BLM-Forest Service innovation to create seamless service for citizens. The National Monument, in being cooperatively managed by BLM and Forest Service, promotes consistency between the two lead agencies. It gives local units the opportunity to streamline multiple processes and regulations, combine management of adjacent BLM and National Forest lands, and offer one-stop shopping and a single point of contact for all customers—commercial users, partners and visitors. Coordination between the two agencies is critical to providing improved customer service for land users on both BLM and Forest Service land within the National Monument. Methods for sharing data and information have been established through the development of the National Monument Management Plan and methods will continue to improve as both agencies continue to approach user conflicts and management issues in a cooperative manner. The BLM and Forest Service will continue to strive to reach the three goals of Service First prove 1) enhance customer service; 2) improve operational efficiency and effectiveness; and 3) improve the stewardship of natural resources.

5.C. Draft National Monument Plan/DEIS Distribution List

A news release announcing the availability of the draft National Monument Management Plan and draft EIS with instructions of how to obtain a copy (electronic or paper) was mailed to over 1,000 individuals, private landowners, private interest groups and governmental agencies. The BLM Palm Springs Office maintains the mailing list for the National Monument. This document is also available for public viewing at the following internet site: www.ca.blm.gov/palmsprings/. The following is a list of representatives and agencies who were directly mailed copies of the Draft National Monument Management Plan/DEIS.

5 copies to Environmental Protection Agency

4 copies to Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

7 copies to Forest Service – Region 5
Federal

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congresswoman Mary Bono
Congressman Jerry Lewis
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington D.C.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Coachella Valley Refuge
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation - Yuma Field Office
National Park Service - Joshua Tree National Park
Secretary, U.S. Department of Interior
Director, Bureau of Land Management
Natural Resource Conservation Service
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Chief, Forest Service

State of California

Office of the Governor
State Senator Jim Battin
Assemblyman Bonnie Garcia
South Coast Air Quality Management District
California Department of Fish and Game, Long Beach
California Department of Parks and Recreation – Colorado Desert District
Anza Borrego Desert State Park
Mt. San Jacinto State Park
University of California, Riverside - Deep Canyon Reserve
University of California, Riverside - Conservation Biology
University of California Cooperative Extension
Winter Park Authority
Wildlife Conservation Board
Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy
Caltrans
State Clearinghouse
State Historic Preservation Office

Indian Tribes

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Augustine Band of Mission Indians
Cabazon Band of Mission Indians
Cahuilla Band of Indians
Los Coyotes Band of Indians
Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Ramona Band of Mission Indians
Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians
Soboba Band of Mission Indians

Torres-Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla Indians
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

Local Jurisdictions

Coachella Valley Association of Governments
County of Riverside
Riverside County Regional Park and Open Space District
Riverside County Transportation Commission
City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Desert Hot Springs
City of Idyllwild
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Rancho Mirage
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
Pinyon Community Council
Desert Water Agency
Coachella Valley Water District
Imperial Irrigation District
Metropolitan Water District
Pinyon Water Agency
Center for Natural Lands Management

Interest Groups and Other Group Recipients

Backcountry Horsemen of California
Bighorn Institute
Building Industry Association, Desert Chapter
California Native Plant Society
California Wilderness Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Coachella Valley Archaeology Society
Desert Protective Council
Desert Riders
Friends of the Desert Mountains
Friends of the Earth, Interior Watchdog Group
Idyllwild Nature Center
International Mountain Biking Association
The Living Desert
Mountain Coalition
National Forest Volunteer Association
Natural Science Collaborative of the Desert Region
The Nature Conservancy
NNC Bicycle Club
Organization against Toxic Exposure
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway

Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism
Palm Springs Desert Museum
San Andreas Canyon Club
Shadow Mountain Gem and Mineral Society
Sierra Club, Lands Protection Program
Sierra Club, National and local Chapters
Society for American Archaeology
U.S. PIRG, Public Lands Advocate
Vista Santa Rosa
Wildlife Society

5.D. List of Preparers

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Special Thanks to the following for their review, input and assistance

Monument Advisory Committee and Working Groups (Planning, Recreation, Acquisition and Cultural Resources; Listing of recommendations and members in Appendix B)

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